



## 2017 Wisconsin Budget Address Agriculture and Natural Resources

### **Wisconsin Works For Everyone**

**“Another way to reduce poverty is to expand a successful program in Kenosha and Brown counties that works with parents who owe child support to get them employed and paying child support.”**

- Continue funding for Brown and Kenosha Counties for the existing Supporting Parents Supporting Kids program. by providing \$200,000 AF in fiscal year 2017-18. Provide \$553,636 AF in fiscal year 2018-19 to administer a five-county child support demonstration program to expand an enhanced Supporting Parents Supporting Kids model that provides work, employment training, and parenting services to low-income noncustodial parents to get a job in order to fulfill financial obligations to his or her child. Grants in fiscal year 2018-19 are anticipated to total \$375,000, funded by existing child support program revenue. With the anticipated federal match, funding for the demonstration program over the biennium will total \$938,600 AF. (2017-19 Budget in Brief)

**“Wisconsin Works for Everyone also includes changes to make it easier for people with disabilities to enter the workforce without fear of quickly losing assistance.”**

- The Medicaid Purchase Plan offers people with disabilities who are working or interested in working the opportunity to buy health care coverage through Wisconsin’s Medicaid program, even if their incomes are slightly above the traditional program limits.
  - The program is an important support that allows those who are working to continue receiving support for needed medical care that they might not otherwise be able to afford on earnings alone.
  - Our reforms would more tightly tie this additional coverage to employment and restructure premiums to eliminate disincentives to increased earnings. (2017-19 Budget in Brief)

**“We extend child care benefits so people don't hit a certain income level and then immediately drop off of any assistance. For many, this becomes a deterrent to working more hours or taking a promotion. Our reforms will eliminate the so called ‘cliff’.”**

- Eliminate the child care cliff which creates a disincentive to work more hours or accept a raise by providing child care subsidies to families with incomes above 200 percent of federal poverty level but with copayments that increase \$1 for every \$3 in additional income. The estimated cost associated with this change is \$1,962,600 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding in fiscal year 2018-19. (2017-19 Budget in Brief)



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**“On top of that, we are working with the new administration and Congress to get approval to expand drug testing for people seeking public assistance. If they fail the test, we provide treatment to get them healthy and back into the workforce.”**

- Identify and treat barriers to employment caused by substance abuse by requiring most new Wisconsin Works applicants to participate in substance abuse screening, testing and, if necessary, treatment. Enable the department to expand the screening process through administrative rules. (2017-19 Budget in Brief)

**“For starters, that means that able-bodied adults will need to be employed at least 80 hours a month to receive food stamps. If not, they will need to be enrolled in our job training program.”**

- Provide \$3,321,200 in fiscal year 2017-18 and \$35,221,800 in fiscal year 2018-19 and 1.5 FTE positions to strengthen employment and training services for adults receiving FoodShare benefits by (1) automatically referring all able-bodied adults with children below the age of 18, or who are caring for an incapacitated person, to the FoodShare Employment and Training (FSET) program with the goal of encouraging voluntary participation among those who may find it beneficial and (2) requiring participation in FSET for certain able-bodied FoodShare recipients with school-age children in a select number of counties. Under these two initiatives, as many as 80,000 Wisconsinites will be provided an opportunity to participate in employment and training. (2017-19 Budget in Brief)